



**MONTANA
AMERICAN
INDIAN CAUCUS**

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EXHIBIT 7
DATE 3-22-11
HB 318

March 17th, 2011

The Honorable Donald Steinbeisser, Chair, and Members of the Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee:

Sen. Taylor Brown	Sen. Cliff Larsen	Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy
Sen. Gary Branae	Sen. Eric Moore	Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
Sen. Bob Hawks	Sen. Terry Murphy	
Sen. Rowlie Hutton	Sen. Rick Ripley	

Dear Chairman Steinbeisser:

The Montana American Indian Caucus is in opposition of HB 318, which would give counties oversight in the movement of publicly owned wild buffalo or bison.

Ultimately, HB 318 attempts to give planning and veto power to county and municipal governments regarding the management of wild bison, which would disregard the sovereign powers of Montana's Indian nations, and elevate counties to the same effective sovereign status of tribal nations.

Though the counties have valid concerns, there are more appropriate channels to voice these concerns such as through the State, or through working groups. Legislative veto, however, is not a suitable alternative because the counties do not have the same authority, such as the State of Montana and Montana's Indian nations.

This bill would undermine the ability, and sovereignty, of the Indian nations in Montana. Accordingly, the Montana American Indian Caucus strongly urges opposition, and to not pass, HB 318.

With Sincere Opposition, we are

Shannon Augare
Carolyn Pease-Lopez
Sterling Small
Frank Smith
Sharon Stewart-Peregoy
Tony Belcourt
Jila Evans